



# MEDIA ADVISORY

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 8, 2007

CONTACT:

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## **PUBLIC HEARINGS SET FOR NEW FAMILIES FIRST GUIDELINES** *PROGRAM TO FOLLOW FEDERAL TANF REQUIREMENTS*

**WHAT:** The Department of Human Services is holding public hearings on Tennessee's new Families First rules. Members of the public are encouraged to read the new rules and offer their comments and suggestions. The rules can be found on the DHS website at: [http://state.tn.us/humanserv/rules/rr\\_3.htm](http://state.tn.us/humanserv/rules/rr_3.htm)

**WHEN:** See attached

**WHERE:** See attached

**MORE:** Families First, Tennessee's welfare reform program, began in September 1996, under a federal waiver and replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. The federal waiver expired June 30, 2007. DHS currently operates the program in compliance with the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Families First provides temporary cash benefits to families who have children, and are experiencing financial difficulties. These benefits are time-limited to 60 months in a participant's lifetime.

The Families First program emphasizes work, training, and personal responsibility. To be eligible for the program, participants must agree to follow a Personal Responsibility Plan (PRP). As part of the PRP, the participant agrees to keep immunizations and health checks up to date for their children, keep their children in school, co-operate with Child Support Services, and participate in a work/training program for at least 30 hours per week unless they are exempt.

The hearings will also cover the new Medicaid de-linking policy.

To learn more about Families First, visit: [http://state.tn.us/humanserv/adfam/afs\\_tanf.htm](http://state.tn.us/humanserv/adfam/afs_tanf.htm)

-More-

CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR  
400 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TN 37248  
615.313.4700

**Tuesday, August 21, 2007**

Lowell Thomas State Office Building  
Conference Room  
225 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 210  
Jackson, TN 38301  
6:30 p.m. CST

Department of Human Services Office  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
905 Buffalo Street  
Johnson City, TN 37604  
6:30 p.m. EST

Citizens Plaza State Office Building  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room  
400 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, TN 37243  
6:30 p.m. CST

**Wednesday, August 22, 2007**

Maury County Department of Human Services Office  
Suite B, Lobby  
1400 College Park Drive  
Columbia, TN 38401  
6:30 p.m. CST

Knoxville State Office Building  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Conference Room A  
531 Henley Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902  
6:30 p.m. EST

**Thursday, August 23, 2007**

Chattanooga State Office Building  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Auditorium  
540 McCallie Avenue  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
6:30 p.m. EST

Cookeville District Office  
1000 England Drive, Suite B  
Cookeville, TN 38501  
6:30 p.m. CST

Donnelly J. Hill State Office Building  
Second Floor Auditorium  
170 North Main Street  
Memphis, TN 38103  
6:30 p.m. CST

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